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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT

16 SEP 1957

SUBJECT Training Centers of the 5th Cheb
Border Guard Brigade at Aš

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a report dealing with training centers used by the 5th Cheb Border Guard brigade which is located at Aš (N 50-13, E 12-11). The report includes information on the location of the training centers, the kind of training given, and personalities. The location of the training centers is pinpointed on a map overlay in the scale of 1:25,000.

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA**Military****Training Centres of 5th CzeB Frontier Guard Brigade
at AS****1. Centres where training is carried out****a) NCOs' school for 5th Brigade, at AS**

200 trainees attend the school and the course starts on December 15th, every year, and lasts until the end of July. Selection is made at the [] which the new recruits enter on 30th October, by the [] officers, who pick those who they consider will make the best NCOs. The time for selection is 1½ months; there is no appeal against assignment to the NCOs' course.

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b) Kollarova ulico training centre, AS

[] 160 new recruits entered this training [] about half of these were Slovaks. [] they are divided up for training according to the weapon they are to use, as follows:

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- i) HMG gunners and crew
- ii) LMG firers and loaders
- iii) Rifle and machine carbine training
- iv) Cooks' training course; cooks have very little training in the use of weapons, what they have being with rifles and some for machine carbines. There is a shortage of cooks in Czechoslovakia and the main emphasis is laid on special training for them.

c) Bratska ulico training centre, AS

About 170 new recruits entered this []

[] special training for the 5th Frontier Guard

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Brigade for:

- i) Mounted guards, including carters, for guard companies
- ii) Signallers, and radio operators
- iii) Engineers
- iv) Rocket launcher gunners and crews

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d) Krasna ulico training centre, AS

This is [] for the 5th Brigade, where most of the new recruits are sent for training with rifle and machine carbine, and in the handling of light and heavy MGs.

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e) 5th Brigade training centre in CHEB

At [] Brigade HQ, M/T Company personnel, despatch riders and mounted guards are trained.

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2. Data on training

a) Training for members of the Frontier Guard lasts three months, from October 30th to January 30th. Those selected for training are mostly from working class families and party members. A large number of Slovaks are assigned to the Frontier Guard in Bohemia and Moravia, and there is a preponderance of them now in those sectors.

b) Training is the same as ordinary infantry training in the army, with the model 52 7.62 mm semi-automatic rifle, the model 24 7.62 mm machine carbine, the model 52 7.62 mm IMG, the GORYUNOV 7.62 mm HMG and the Czechoslovak armour-piercing "pancorovka", calibre possibly 8.5mm. Each man receives training with rifle and machine carbine, and then specialises in one of the last three weapons mentioned.

c) Firing practice with live ammunition consists of three programmes during the day and two at night, or 3 to 5 shots with a rifle at distances of 150 m, 200 m, and 300 m.

d) Atomic and chemical warfare are included in training; the main emphasis is on types of shelter and decontamination from radio-active dust. There is practice in rapid donning of protective clothing, leggings, gloves and cape, and in marching with gas mask. In theoretical training, it was stated that a man can withstand up to 5 degrees of radio activity and a tank up to 50 degrees.

e) Training concentrated on service in the Frontier Guard and dealt with various ways of trapping intruders, such as allowing them to reach the wire barrier and apprehending them between the first and second fences; or allowing them to climb the middle fence. It was stated that if the life of a member of the Frontier Guard is threatened, he should

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fire regardless of whether the intruder is mortally wounded or not.

Recognition of traces and gaining the confidence of the inhabitants of the frontier zone, signalling devices and communication by means of flares, methods of apprehending agents, inspections etc., are also dealt with in training.

f) Political instruction took place three times a week for two hours.

3. Poor quality of rations in the Frontier Guard

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a) [] the quality of food issued to the Frontier Guard deteriorated; [] the calory content was quite inadequate and the men had to supplement their diet with purchases from ARMA stores. A similar decline in standards was also felt at Company headquarters. To complaints from the men, the officers retorted that the fault was the cooks', but the cooks asserted that supplies were much worse and quantities smaller than formerly.

b) The following is a sample delivery to a Company numbering 33 men:

7 to 8 kg. meat a day, including bone; 1.25 kg. fat; 8 kg. butter a week; the quantity of eggs was sufficient for preparing dishes only, and not for a complete egg dish. The supply of bread was adequate.

c) Formerly the Companies were able to supplement their diet with game, of which they might shoot as much as they wished. [] however, this was strictly forbidden, and no Company CO dares allow it.

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d) There was an acute shortage of vegetables, fruit and sugar.

4. Personalities

a) CO of Kollarova ulice training centre: Senior Lieutenant BELOHLAVEK, fnu, []

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b) 2 i/c: Lieutenant REDL, fnu, []

c) CO of all [] NCOs' school: Captain Jan KIMSTA, []

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d) Head [] for cooks: Lieutenant ZEMAN, fnu, []

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5. Location [] (see sketch)

1) Bridge NCOs' school, in [] AS, in a former factory building a two-storeyed building of irregular shape.

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- 2) Kollarova ulice [] in a former weaving mill, two-
storeyed, 30 x 16 m, East of the town centre. 25X1
- 3) Bratrskn ulice [] on the Eastern outskirts of the town,
in a former warehouse, L-shaped and two-storeyed, 27 x 10 and 20 x 10m. 25X1
- 4) Krasna ulice [] on the South-eastern outskirts of the
town, on the North side of the AS - NASSINGRUB road, in a T-shaped
two-storeyed building, about 30 m long and 20 m wide. 25X1

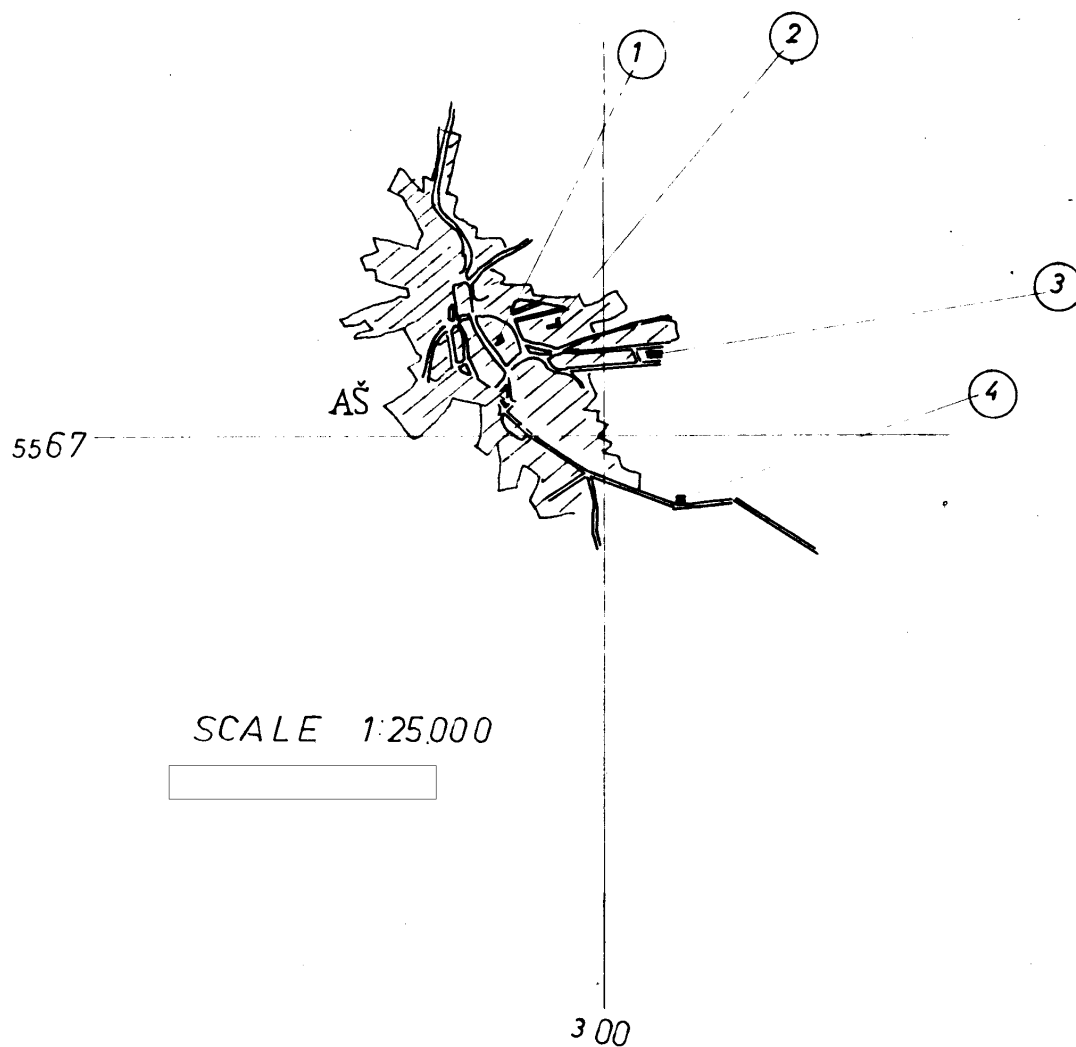
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